



Marc Elrich, County Executive
Andrew Kleine, Chief Administrator Officer

Catherine Matthews, Director
Linda Moore, UCAB Chair

August 8, 2019



Upcoming Business Connect Opportunities

Montgomery County *Business Connect Upcounty* is pleased to host the following classes and counseling opportunities for area businesses. *Business Connect* is a program of Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich designed to make business services available in the community. In addition to classes and one-on-one business counseling, the Montgomery County [Small Business Navigator](#) is on-site at the Upcounty Regional Services Center to help businesses in the region connect to County resources, services and Departments.

Visit the [Montgomery County Business Portal](#) for valuable business information, a listing of training & workshops and contact information for the Montgomery County Business Solutions Group which includes the small business navigator and business liaison officers available to assist local businesses.

One-on-One Business Counseling with Maryland Women's Business Center

Mondays from 9 a.m. to noon
Germantown Library
19840 Century Blvd, Room 4
Germantown, MD 20874
By Appointment Only
<https://marylandwbc.org/>

One-on-One Business Counseling with the Small Business Development Center

Wednesdays from 1 – 4 p.m.
Upcounty Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Rd., Room 1
Germantown, MD 20874
By Appointment Only

[Making the Most of Your Marketing Toolkit](#)

Wednesday, August 14, 2019
10 a.m. to noon
Upcounty Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Rd., Room B
Germantown, MD 20874

[Tax Planning:](#)

[What You Don't Know Can Hurt You!](#)

Thursday, August 15, 2019
10 a.m. - noon
Upcounty Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Rd., Room B
Germantown, MD 20874

[QuickBooks For Small Businesses](#)

Wednesday, August 28, 2019
10 a.m. – noon
Upcounty Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Road
Germantown MD 20874
[Schedule an appointment](#)

Montgomery County's Upcounty Regional Office Announces Matching Mini-Grants Now Available for Neighborhood Projects or Events!

Sometimes all that is keeping a wonderful neighborhood event from materializing is a relatively small amount of resources... Well, now there is a local source for that!

The Neighborhood Events Matching Fund was established by Montgomery County to encourage community-building activities, capacity-building, networking, and to stimulate the local economy. The maximum grant amount is \$1,000. Funds must be matched, and the event must take place during this fiscal year – between now and June 30, 2020.

Applying is easy. [Download](#) the application form, complete it, and submit it to Catherine Matthews, Director for the county's Upcounty Regional Office, at upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov. There is no deadline for application, but funding is limited. So, regardless of whether your project or event is next month or months away, apply now!

See the [application](#) for more details and instructions.

Community Development Block Grant Funds Available

Deadline for applications is 4:00pm on Friday, September 13!

Applications for Montgomery County's fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service Grants are being accepted. You can learn more about this opportunity, and view or download the application, at the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs website here: <http://montgomerycountymd.gov/DHCA/community/grants/index.html>.

Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs Supports Special 'Toastmasters' Program to Help Build Communications Skills and Confidence for Veterans

Saturday, August 10 11:30am

**Stephen A. Cohen Family Clinic (Conference Room)
1420 Spring Street, Silver Spring**

A special chapter of the worldwide Toastmasters organization is being formed in Montgomery County to help improve speaking skills and build confidence for veterans. Montgomery County's Commission on Veterans Affairs strongly supports the program as an opportunity to help veterans.

The special chapter is inviting veterans, wounded warriors, transitioning military personnel and caregivers to experience the Toastmasters program that works to build skills in public speaking, job interview situations and experiencing group settings. The program seeks to build self-confidence and maximize potential.

More information about the chapter being organized for veterans can be obtained by emailing tmspeakerleaderdtm20@gmail.com.



New Safety Law!

Beginning July 1, 2019, a new law in Montgomery County requires many existing single-unit, two-unit and townhouse dwellings to have Carbon Monoxide Alarms located outside sleeping areas and on every level of a home. Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms are designed to emit an alarm when high levels of CO are detected but before they reach life-threatening levels. See Montgomery County, MD Fire and Rescue Service Blog [English](#) - [Spanish](#)

Montgomery Council Enhances Regulations on Dangerous Driveway Sealants

The Montgomery County Council unanimously approved Bill 8-19 that will prohibit the use and sale of driveway sealants with Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) levels higher than .1 percent. By doing so, Montgomery County becomes the first county in Maryland to join Washington D.C. in the beginning of a regional approach to limit the PAH pollutant from entering our waterways and contaminating our environment. Councilmember Craig Rice is the lead sponsor of Bill 8-19. Council President Nancy Navarro is a cosponsor. The bill also received support from the County Executive and the County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR) states that when PAHs are introduced into our natural environment, our air and waterways are polluted with the chemical. This leads to long-term contamination of lakes and rivers as well as ground water. Plants and animals have been shown to exhibit high PAH contents when living in an exposed area. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are among several agencies who have also noted the danger of PAH exposure, including its carcinogenic effects for humans and animals. By passing Bill 8-19, Montgomery County is taking action against PAHs, to protect its residents and environment.

Read more at https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=23363&Dept=1

Montgomery County Executive Elrich Announced Completion of Two-Year Apartment Building Inspection Initiative That is Area's Most Aggressive for Large Jurisdictions

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich announced that the County recently completed its two-year initiative to inspect 686 apartment buildings – a new protocol that is the most aggressive among large jurisdictions in the Washington area. Over the two-year period, the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) inspected more than 22,000 apartment units, identified more than 31,000 violations and ensured that 96 percent of the violations were corrected.

Read more at https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=23384

VITA Program Now Preparing Amended and Prior Year Returns for Low-Income Residents

The Community Action Agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) partnership, part of the Department of Health and Human Services, offers off-season tax preparation for prior year and amended taxes (2016-2018) through October 30. VITA's free tax preparation services are for Montgomery County residents only. To qualify, residents must have incomes of less than \$55,000. Assistance is available for taxpayers who need to obtain or file with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)

Appointments are available Tuesdays at the Takoma-East Silver Spring Center, 8513 Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring; Wednesdays at the Community Action Agency office, 1401 Rockville Pike, 3rd floor in Rockville and Fridays at the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center, 11002 Viers Mill Road, Suite 506 in Wheaton.

Visit montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback to schedule an appointment or call 240-777-1123. TTY users, please call MD Relay (711). To request special accommodations, call 240-777-1123 at least three business days in advance.

Community Action's VITA program leads the County's multilingual Earned-Income Tax Credit campaign <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback/schedule.html>, and provides free tax help to limited-English speaking taxpayers, seniors, and people with disabilities. In the last year, the VITA program served 2,200 households helping them receive more than \$5.6 million in tax refunds, including \$1.4 million in EITC. Seventy-seven IRS certified volunteers provided more than 2,800 hours assisting taxpayers.

To learn more about the County's free tax services and other financial education resources for low-income residents, please visit montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback.



Montgomery County Agricultural Fair August 9 – 17

Farm Animals! Great Food! Carnival Rides! Vendors!
Visit <http://mcagfair.com/general-information/> for more information.

For more News from the Office of the County Executive, visit: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news>

For other news and meeting agendas, visit:

County Council <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council>

Planning Board http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/department/news_releases

Also check out the latest from:

Department of Public Libraries <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library>

Department of Recreation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec>

Department of Transportation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.html>

Department of Environmental Protection <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep>

Department of Permitting Services <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps>

Montgomery County Volunteer Center <http://www.montgomeryserves.org>

Office of Community Partnerships <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships>

Commission for Women <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw>

Parks Department <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/>

Planning Department <http://montgomeryplanning.org/>

Department of Health and Human Services www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs